

Planning and Coordination for Higher Education" is, of course, one of the basic pieces of information to which many states have turned when they first sought information about the various possible coordinating arrangements. Assistance in the development of effective state planning and coordination is only one of many ways in which SREB has been of assistance to its member states. Its research studies have made available to all of the states information which it would have been much more expensive, if not impossible, for each of them to gather independently.

The Board's role as an important educational agency at the regional level—that is, at a level which encompasses more than a single state but less than the entire nation—will, I believe, increase significantly in the future. One important activity which is particularly well-suited to regional action is the coordination of program development in these specialized areas which need not be duplicated in every state, but to which every state needs access. SREB has devoted much attention to some of these areas in recent years and has assisted in the development of specialized southern programs in nursing, statistics, area and language studies, veterinary medicine, certain agricultural fields and others.

As man's knowledge continues to multiply, the ability of each state to provide within its boundaries every type of educational opportunity will decrease and the need for this type of regional cooperation will greatly increase. It is noteworthy, I think, that the Board's activities in these areas have never been based upon any ability to coerce or force any state or any institution to accept its recommendations. The Board's activities have been an example of genuine cooperation based upon convincing evidence and effective staff work.

The federal government is playing an increasingly important role in financing of colleges and universities, and this inevitably introduces a whole new set of relationships and interrelationships in addition to those within a single state or among the states in a single region. The federal involvement, of course, helps in our efforts to support our institutions more adequately. Also, in the areas of graduate education and research where federal funds have played a major role, the actual benefits are nationwide, and it therefore makes sense that the national government help finance them. There is an obvious need for better coordination among the many federal departments and agencies which provide various types of assistance and which secure various services from our educational institutions. Such coordination of effort at the federal level would help all of the parties involved—the institutions,